

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 TAIPEI 06645 012336Z

71

ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 MED-03 HEW-06 SCSE-00 SCA-01 /026 W
----- 010281

R 010920Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1224

UNCLAS TAIPEI 6645

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AMED, TW

SUBJECT: SWINE FLU VACCINE

REF : (A) STATE 221351, (B) STATE 219886, (C) TAIPEI 5999

1. INFORMATION CONTAINED REF (A) IS AT VARIANCE WITH THAT BEING RECEIVED BY NON-OFFICIAL US COMMUNITY IN TAIWAN. I HAVE BEEN RESPONDING TO INQUIRIES BY STATING THAT IT HAS NOT BEEN DECIDED WHETHER TO VACCINATE NON-OFFICIAL AMERICANS OVERSEAS BUT THAT HEW AND DEPARTMENT ARE STILL EXPLORING POSSIBILITIES. I HAVE INSTRUCTED EMBASSY STAFF TO RESPOND THE SAME.

2. I WAS MORE THAN A LITTLE SURPRISED, THEREFORE, AT MY MONTHLY MEETING WITH TAIPEI AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SEPTEMBER 30 TO BE GIVEN COPY OF SEPTEMBER 22 LETTER TO CHAMBER FROM HEW/PHS/CDC, ATLANTA, GEORGIA. THE BODY OF THAT LETTER READS AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE: THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER REGARDING SWINE FLU VACCINE FOR NON-OFFICIAL AMERICANS OVERSEAS. THIS HAS TURNED OUT TO BE A VERY DIFFICULT PROBLEM BECAUSE OF LOGISTIC CONSIDERATIONS, CUSTOMS CLEARANCE, ETC. WE ARE IN THE FINAL STAGES OF DEVELOPING A PLAN THAT WOULD PROVIDE VACCINE TO AGENCIES IN THE UNITED STATES SPONSORING AMERICANS OVERSEAS. SUCH AGENCIES WOULD SUBMIT A REQUEST TO CDC INDICATING HOW MANY AMERICAN EMPLOYEES AND DEPENDENTS THEY HAVE OVERSEAS, WHAT THEIR PLAN WILL BE TO GET VACCINE THROUGH CUSTOMS, WHAT PLAN WILL BE USED FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF VACCINE,
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ETC. THEY WOULD ALSO HAVE TO GIVE ASSURANCE THAT THERE WILL

BE NO CHARGE FOR VACCINE OR ADMINISTRATION TO THE RECIPIENT AND THAT AN INFORMED CONSENT SIGNATURE WOULD BE OBTAINED PRIOR TO IMMUNIZATION. I WILL BE HAPPY TO SEND YOU A COPY OF THE PROCEDURES REQUIRED IF YOU GIVE ME THE STATE SIDE ADDRESS OF YOUR SPONSORING AGENCY. IF YOU NEED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PLEASE FEEL FREE TO WRITE. END QUOTE.

3. THE NON-OFFICIAL US COMMUNITY IN THE ROC IS RELYING ON THE EMBASSY FOR INFORMATION ON THE SWINE FLU VACCINATION PROGRAM. IT DOES NOT HELP US IN OUR RELATIONS WITH THAT COMMUNITY IF INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE DOES NOT SQUARE WITH INFORMATION BEING PUT OUT BY OTHER DEPARTMENTS OR AGENCIES OF THE USG. THERE IS ALSO RESENTMENT THAT OFFICIAL AMERICANS AND LOCAL EMPLOYEES OF US GOVERNMENT AGENCIES WILL RECEIVE THE VACCINE BUT NON-OFFICIAL AMERICANS MAY NOT.
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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